



VIS-IT® SOLUTIONS TRAINING DOCUMENT

THE SIX STEPS in the Basic Thinking with Hexagons Technique

1. State the Purpose of the session, and then present the Focus Question.
2. Allow a few minutes of Quiet Time for participants to reflect on the focus question. Ask them to write down a list of key works or a “headline” to summarize each of their responses to the focus question.
3. The facilitator will ask each person, in turn, to state **just one** of their ideas, which has not already been mentioned by someone else, and to offer a brief (30 seconds or less) explanation of why it is important. Then, after listening, the facilitator will write a 4 to 6 word headline for each response on a sequentially numbered hexagon, usually yellow or blue. Use a red hexagon to capture emotional or judgmental responses. Continue in turn around the group, capturing one idea from each, until all ideas from everyone’s lists have been offered to the group.
4. Invite the group to arrange the hexagons into clusters of ideas that belong together.” Encourage conversation about why ideas belong, or do not belong, together. Label each completed cluster with a phrase that the group suggests to describe the “glue” that holds that cluster together. Circle each cluster and its label.
5. Write each cluster label on a different color hexagon, and then arrange them on a new workspace in similar relationship to the original clusters. : Draw Arrows from one label to another to illustrate how each cluster label idea might have a causal influence on any other cluster label idea. Examine each cluster in turn. Avoid two-headed arrows. Show explicit causal direction. See the Causal Drivers Diagram and the Causal Loop Diagram techniques for more details on this step.
6. Review the Purpose of the session. Ask for Next Steps, if any, that are necessary to achieve the group’s purpose. Write each next step on a hexagon. Design the next Focus Question to move forward.

ABOUT VISION WORKS

Vision Works, LLC is the creator of the VIS-IT™ Line of facilitation and thinking tools including FlowShapes™, 6” Hexagons, Jumbo Hexagons, Mini Hexagons, Big Idea Pads, and the Great Big Idea Pad. Vision Works serves a rapidly growing customer base including facilitators, trainers, consultants, managers and executives working in some of the world’s largest and most innovative organizations.

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